

# News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield



Church Magazine September 2020

[www.stmarysecclesfield.com](http://www.stmarysecclesfield.com)

~~Price 60p~~

## First Words

We enter September and the start of Autumn with things still very much restricted by the ongoing global pandemic. Many of us have had our holidays cancelled and our lives are still not what we would want them to be. But things are slowly beginning to open-up again.

We are able to open Church for worship every **Sunday at 10am** and **Thursday at 9.30 am**. Most weeks we open Church for private prayer on **Wednesdays at 3pm**.

I am very grateful to the wardens and Peter Lonsborough for all that they have done to enable us to open safely.

We have been able to have some singing in Church on Sundays, and I hope that it won't be too long before we can all sing hymns and worship songs together. Thanks to those who have contributed to the worship on these past weeks. Look out for announcements regarding worship on Sunday evenings.

Small weddings can take place again, and there are a few weddings booked in for October and December, it is good to welcome couples who have come to hear their banns called on Sunday mornings.

- On **Monday 7th September** the clock-repairers will be the tower replacing the broken pane of glass on the clock-face.
- The Gatty Trustees will be meeting at **7pm on Monday 7th September** in the Gatty Hall,
- On **Tuesday 8th September at 1pm** we will be holding a meeting of the **PCC** in Church.
- On **Monday 14th September at 7pm** in Church there will be a meeting of the **Ecclesfield Welfare Charities**.
- On **Saturday 26th September at 12 noon** we have a **wedding** in Church.
- Donations to the St Paul's food bank can now be left in church and will be collected on a regular basis.

God bless you,  
Tim



**Clicking on images and links in the online magazine may tell you more...**

**Front Cover – Helianthus** - Sunflower in a field - The world produces over 53 million tonnes of sunflower seed each year, the biggest growers being Ukraine 15, Russia 13 and the European Union 10 million tonnes respectively

**Back Cover** – View through St. Mary's lych gate  
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## Thought for the Month

For many of us 2020 will have been one of the worst years that we can remember. I for one will be very happy to welcome in 2021! We have seen extreme weather events as well as the global pandemic which brought months of lock-down and economic crisis. As I write this I am aware that there are still four months of 2020 left, and I wonder what they will bring!

The events of this year have shattered our illusion that we are in control: we do not know if there will be a second wave of infections; we don't know what will happen to the economy, our savings (if we are fortunate enough to have any) or our children's education.

2020 has brought home to us the uncomfortable truth that we were never in control of our world or of what happens to us. Some Christians have proclaimed that these events are the herald of 'The End'. But when we take a look at history we see that for hundreds and hundreds of years God's people have faced unexpected disasters: plagues, floods, hurricanes, droughts. This is simply the reality of life for most of the people of our world for most of history.

The Bible and Christian thinkers have seen times like these as times of testing: not that God sends these terrible events - this is just what life is like in this broken and fallen world. Peter, writing to Christians facing torture and execution at the hands of the Roman authorities says, "you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:6-7).

You only know whether gold is genuine when it is tested by fire. And just as fire reveals genuine gold, so when we face the tests and trials of life, reveal the genuineness of our faith by drawing us closer to God our Father.

When we face the tests of life, it is not a sign that God has abandoned us. It is an opportunity to grow in faith; to trust that God is with us right through the storm; right through the valley of the shadow. Often we cannot control what happens to us, but we can choose how we will respond.

The God of the Bible, the God who meets us in Jesus is a God of the Cross and the Resurrection. The Cross tells us that God has not and never will abandon us whatever trials, problems and adversities we face we do not face them alone. The Resurrection tells us that God will ultimately triumph, even when the forces of chaos seem to have won.

2020 has been a very hard year for so many people throughout the world. When the storms batter us, we have to decide where - or in whom - we will put our trust.

The words of Psalm 23 have been very close to me throughout this year:

*Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.  
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

God bless you,  
Tim.

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# God and The Arts

*The Rev Michael Burgess considers 'The Transfiguration' by Fra Angelico.*

## **He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael**

The weeks and months of lockdown have been difficult and testing times for many of us, but they have also provided the opportunity to look afresh at the world of nature. With less traffic on the roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, the sky has somehow seemed bluer and the bird song more joyful and confident.

It is appropriate that we focus this month on one such bird noted for its liquid, tinkling song - the goldfinch. In this month we also celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, and so the painting is 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael.



Raphael was only 37 years old when he died in 1520, but his work is marked by maturity and great beauty. No more so than in this painting which shows Mary with a young Jesus and John the Baptist. You could easily miss the tiny bird which is carefully held by John and gently stroked by Jesus, who has one foot resting on His mother's. It is an intimate, tender scene which was painted in 1505 as a wedding gift for Lorenzo Nasi. It was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1548, painstakingly restored in the early part of this century, and now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

As we look, we rejoice in the grace and simplicity of the scene. We look again and ask ourselves 'Why a goldfinch?' The bird has a red spot on its head, and legend tells that the goldfinch flew down to the cross of Calvary to take a thorn from the crown of thorns. As it pulled the thorn in its beak, its head was splashed with a drop of blood.

And so this painting of gentleness and innocence opens out into a wider canvas of redemptive love. Our thoughts move from infancy to the cross. Mary, sat on a rock, is reading 'The Throne of Wisdom', and the artist is inviting us to ponder where true wisdom is found. Here, as we look at the wonder of nature and new life with a mother and children, but also as we look ahead to the 'wisest love' of Jesus who is our Redeemer.

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## CHAPELTOWN & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The club is continuing to meet using Zoom as the method of having virtual meetings. Grenoside Community Centre is re-opening at the beginning of September and we are now in discussions to see when it might be safe to contemplate meeting in person again. Until then, we will be continuing with virtual meetings using the Zoom system which has proved to be successful and easy to use.

The August meeting had well-known BBC sports reporter and commentator Peter Slater give a highly amusing talk- “Don’t You Know Who I Am?”. This included interviews with people such as Muhammad Ali, Brian Clough, Alex Ferguson and Damon Hill.

Although there will be no lunch, the next meetings, will be: -

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – David Templeman, “The Great Sheffield Deer Park”

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Tim Kniebel, “Ladybower House”

Guests and potential new members are very welcome and until normal meetings resume, you can join for the special price of £10 with no further membership charges until normal meetings resume. If you are interested, please contact the secretary, Trevor Winslow on 07966 317258 or [trevor.winslow@outlook.com](mailto:trevor.winslow@outlook.com)

ACR

# St James the Least of All

## On how to survive a weekend away with the young people

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

I think your idea for both our Confirmation groups getting together for a weekend away – socially distanced, of course - was excellent and our meeting last week drew most of the plans together. We didn't take any minutes, so let me record the decisions I believe we made.

Since all of us have to sleep far apart at the centre, I am prepared to spend the nights at a local hotel. By chance, I have found that there is a four star one only a few miles away, so I have booked myself in.

As the dining area in the youth centre may be cramped, I am also willing to have dinner each evening at the hotel, thereby creating more space for the rest of you. An additional sadness is that, since breakfast at the hotel is not served until 8am, I will not be able to join you either for your pre-breakfast dip in the nearby stream. It would be grossly unfair to expect you to pack lunch for me, so I will arrange for the hotel to provide me with a picnic hamper for one which I can have while you all enjoy your cheese and pickle sandwiches.

I think it will be an excellent learning experience if you prepare all the teaching sessions yourself, but, be assured that I will always be on hand to give the advice of experience. That large armchair near the fire in the common room seems to be the best place for me to sit, so I can keep an eye on proceedings, while I take on the responsibilities for stoking the fire. This reminds me; do make sure that the young people are encouraged to saw enough logs each morning for me to fulfil my obligations.

Naturally, my arthritis will prevent me being able to accompany you on your afternoon hikes, but I will cheerfully park my car wherever you leave the minibus, to provide a second vehicle in case of emergencies. I do not mind in the least waiting all those long hours until you get back; I have already found an attractive tea shop in the village.

I am fully aware that not sleeping or dining at the centre, not being responsible for preparing the teaching, nor being involved on the walks will mean that my contributions will be ever so slightly limited, but these are sacrifices I gladly make in order to give you further experience in your ministerial career.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

# Help needed in the church garden

If you can, mow, weed, strim, sweep, pickup sticks, rake leaves or drive a sit on mower, we need you. If you can spare just one or two hours a week it would be a great help. Not only will the church look good, but you might even feel your spiritual and physical well-being improve and in our small way help the environment. We come to the churchyard every Tuesday and Friday afternoon (weather permitting) followed by a drinks and biscuits, sometimes even a cake.  
Any help most welcome. Thank you. Pat Wood

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Dear Friends,

The last time I wrote to you, the sun was blazing down from a beautiful, blue sky and I had all the windows open to let the fresh air flow throughout the house. Not so, this morning! It is quite cool (cardigan weather my mum would have said!), the sky is laden with rain clouds and it is pouring down. However, on a positive note, the gardens need refreshing so that we can once again cut the grass, trim the lawn edges and pull out the weeds. If you remember, I was waging war with a blackbird who seemed to be decimating my garden pots. Well, one morning, when I opened the blinds, a squirrel was looking at me as it sat on the window ledge and, all of a sudden, I realised that the blackbird might not have been as guilty as I thought. Apologies to the blackbird!

I think we are embarking on week 19 of lockdown and things have changed a lot since March 23<sup>rd</sup>. I was surprised at how quickly I dropped into my new routine and kept myself busy with the help of family and friends. However, now that some restrictions have been lifted, I approach the 'new normal' (whatever that is!) with a great deal of caution and some trepidation. I have paid a few fleeting visits to shops, taken my car for its overdue MOT and service and, on Saturday, I went to the hairdresser's which means that I can, once again, look in the mirror without feeling too despondent. I have also been to some National Trust venues just to enjoy the flora and fauna.

I wonder how you have all been coping in the past few months. Have you had the opportunity to reconnect with neighbours? Have you noticed that more people have time to chat or even do a good turn? I hope so!

A few people got in touch with me following the last letter and I was delighted to hear your news. Thank you. We, at the theatre, keep in touch with each other. Andrew continues to pay his weekly H&S visits and, Tom, Malcolm and David have led the way in maintaining the fabric of the building. As always, we miss seeing you but we cannot envisage putting a play on before May, 2021, at the earliest. With that in mind, we wondered if you had a particular play or genre that you would like to see. Obviously, we can't please everyone of you, but we would be interested in hearing your views. You are at the heart of our theatre and we always consider you in any decisions we make.

Re: patronage

Patronage will just carry over until we open the theatre again. However, if anyone wants to update their donation, I can give you the BACS details for online banking. Unfortunately, we are unable to deal with cheques as no-one is going to the bank at the moment.

As usual, if you want to get in touch, please do. We always care about you, so please do not think that you are on your own.

As always, stay safe and take care, Kind regards,

Jean Long (Mrs)  
Patronage Secretary  
jeanlong1@googlemail.com

## Prayer for the Month

*Everlasting God,  
you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:  
grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,  
so, at your command,  
they may help and defend us on earth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

The feast of St Michael and All Angels falls at the end of this month (Tuesday 29th September) and it holds special memories for me. I was ordained as curate to the Parish of St Michael and All Angels in North Hull in July 1992. We always had a joyful celebration to celebrate our patron saint.

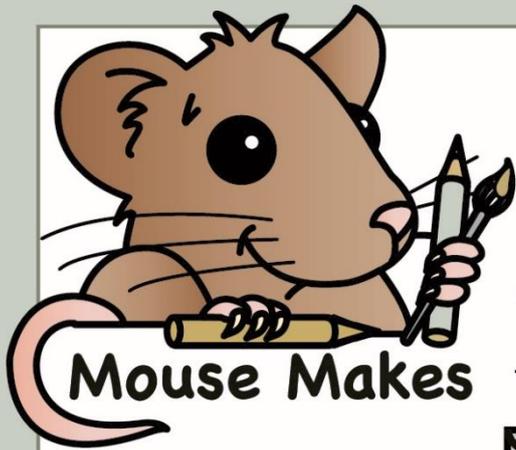
The angels are part of God's creation, as we say in the Creed:  
*"We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen."*

In the Bible the angels are God's messengers we think especially of the announcement of the coming of Jesus - Gabriel was sent to Mary before Jesus' incarnation, and the whole heavenly host were seen by the shepherds on the night of His birth.

Angels are often mentioned in the context of worship. Our worship on earth joins with the worship of heaven. Andrew Louth, a Russian Orthodox priest writes: "It is as if the angels are the sparks that fly off as God and His creation encounter each other." A beautiful image to hold in our minds as we sing together in Church or pray the Eucharistic prayer together.

My favourite story of angels comes from 2 Kings in the Hebrew Bible. Elisha and his servant wake up one morning to discover that they are surrounded by the Syrian army. The servant is alarmed, but Elisha says, "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them"; and the servant's eyes are opened and he sees the heavenly host surrounding them. (2 kings 6:16-17).

Belief in the angels doesn't fit in very well with our modern world, but it is important. At the very least it reminds us that, as Shakespeare wrote, "There are more things in heaven and earth, .... Than are dreamt of in your philosophy".



The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

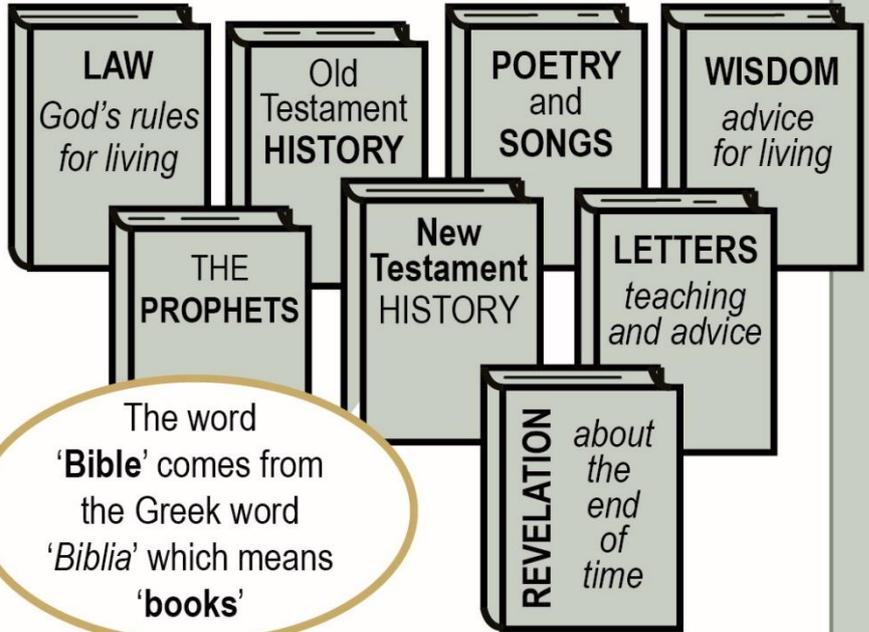
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



**BIBLE WORDS**

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K  
 R I O S I L G  
 O G O N S W O  
 P H K E D O L  
 H T S W O R D  
 E R L T M D O  
 T E A E G O D  
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 P O E T R Y L  
 F O O D Y O E



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '*Biblia*' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

- Mirror**  
James 1:23
- Food**  
Hebrews 5:12-6:1
- Honey and Gold**  
Psalm 19:10
- Light**  
Psalm 119:105
- Rain**  
Isaiah 55:10-12
- Seed**  
Mark 4:14
- Hammer**  
Jeremiah 23:29
- Fire**  
Jeremiah 20:9
- Sword**  
Ephesians 6:17
- "God said..."  
**Living Word**  
Hebrews 4:12

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

## Editor's Lockdown Humour

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed as it left a London publishing house last Thursday. According to the BBC, witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, punchy, shocked, rattled, paralyzed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, boggled, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, and perplexed.

Congratulations you have successfully made to the end of August. Welcome to [Jumanji: The Next Level](#)

Two piglets laid on beach towels in the sun, first piglet says: "Is it just me or do we suddenly smell delicious?"

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Why do I feel compelled to Wave at the end of Zoom call? I have never walked out of a meeting room Waving...

With so many sporting events cancelled, they're going to televise the [World Origami Championship](#) – It's on Paperview

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." – Greek Proverb – English Proverb "Walnuts and pears you plant for your heirs"

Google "[cha cha slide](#)" tap/click the sparkly microphone and then the icons ... Thank me later

Two dogs out for a walk – first dog "Why are all the humans wearing muzzles" – second dog "Because they didn't learn to sit and stay."



# From the Registers

## Funerals

SGS = Simple Graveside Service and SCS = Simple Crematorium Service  
Memorial Services will follow when things are back to normal.

Tuesday 11th August                      Josephine Cole (Josie)                      aged 76

*Grant her, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace.*



## Some miscellaneous observations on modern life:

It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement. - Mabel Newcomer

Two quick ways to disaster are to take nobody's advice and to take everybody's advice. - Anon

I can always tell when I am going to give birth to an idea. My writer's cramps start coming two minutes apart. - Anon

Waiting is not a waste of time so don't waste waiting. - Anon

I've worked myself up from nothing to a state of extreme poverty. - [Groucho Marx](#)

Television has been the single greatest shaper of emptiness. - [Ravi Zacharias](#)

Being around negative people can make you sick. - [John Gray](#)

My advice, if you insist on slimming, is to eat just as much as you like but just don't swallow it. - [Harry Secombe](#)

Looking at modern art is like trying to follow the plot in a bowl of alphabet soup. – Anon

There is such a bizarre assault on freedom of speech right now, and it comes mostly from the secular world. Even as someone who saw this coming, it's gotten so crazy that I'm still a little surprised myself." *Dave Ruben, agnostic and popular YouTube personality.*

Character is not made in a crisis – it is only exhibited. - *Robert Freeman*

# God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, and a member of Christians in Science. See [www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches](http://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches) and <http://www.cis.org.uk>*

## How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

## Saint of the month - Michael and All Angels 29<sup>th</sup> September

St Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, St Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, St Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art St Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. St Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with St Michael.

### Angels Unawares

*By Canon David Winter*

One of those surveys which some newspapers love to publish claimed recently that a large number of British people believe in angels – almost as many, in fact, as claimed to believe in God. They didn't tell us what people meant by 'angels'. I suspect quite a few were thinking of young children who die, who are often now said to be 'angels' 'up there'. They're not, of course. They are transformed human beings. Be that as it may, when Christians celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels later this month, there will be many of us, inside and outside churches, who will wonder exactly what or who we are celebrating.

Most simply, the word in the New Testament means 'messenger'. An 'angel' is a being who brings to us God's message or his help. In the Bible angels are variously described. The familiar notion of wings and flight comes from a vision given to Isaiah in the Temple when he was being called as a prophet. The angel Gabriel, who told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, is not described at all, but his words are recorded in detail. Angels speak to people in dreams (Joseph, the husband of Mary, for instance) and Jesus spoke of 'angels' who particularly care for children ('guardian angels').

Most people, even very devout ones, have never knowingly encountered an angel, I guess. However, the New Testament tells us that in 'showing hospitality to strangers' some of us have 'entertained angels without knowing it'. Clearly wings and eyes of flame are not obligatory. Just human care. 'Oh, go on, be an angel and make me a cup of tea!'

# Smile-lines for September

## Are politicians the oldest profession?

**A surgeon, an architect and a politician** were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation." "**Maybe,**" admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"**But,**" the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"

**Politician to aide:** "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

**Old politicians never die.** They just run once too often.

**Admirer to political candidate:** Great speech sir! I really like the straightforward way you dodged the issues.

**Politician:** a fellow who shakes your hand before the election and shakes you after the election.

**Politics:** the career of plundering and blundering. - [\*Disraeli\*](#)

**What this country needs** is fewer people who know what this country needs.

**American teacher to students:** "Be diligent and steadfast, and you will succeed. Take the case of George Washington, our first ever president. Do you remember my telling you of the great difficulty that George Washington had to face? The big problem that could have been the end of his political career?"

"Sure," said a student. "He couldn't tell a lie."

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# The Gardening Year – September 2020

**Bulbs** – Plant bulbs between shrubs or herbaceous plants, on rock gardens or in lawns preferably in groups. Remove summer bedding as it fades and replace with bulbs. First plan the layout, Then plant from the centre outwards. Where interplanting set the plant first then put the bulbs in afterwards. **Fruit** – Plan for new planting season and choose later flowering varieties for frosty areas. Complete summer pruning of apples and pears.

**Vegetables** – **Asparagus** – Asparagus can be raised from seed instead of buying plants, but it will take an extra year to produce spears for cutting. In April soak the seed overnight in lukewarm water and sow in drills ½ inch in depth and 12 in. apart. When the seedlings are about 6 in high, thin out until they are 6 in. apart. Water them generously during the summer and plant out in their permanent beds during the following April.

**How to Grow Asparagus** – buy plants that are one or two years old. Do not try to transplant roots older than this. One-year plants are best, but they will not yield spears large enough to eat for two years. Plant in late April, use a spade to make trenches 8 in. deep and 3ft apart, and wide enough to take the plants roots when spread out flat. Replace about 2 in. of soil to give a domed base. Set the plants 18 in. apart in the trenches, spread out their roots and cover as quickly as possible with soil. Cover the trenches with 3in. soil and firm the surface. Allow the trenches to fill up gradually by driving soil from the sides as hoeing proceeds during the summer. By October the bed should be level. For the first two years lightly hoe to keep down weeds. Water thoroughly in dry spells. In late October or early November when the stems turn yellow, cut down the ferns to within 1 in. of the soil and mulch with well-rotted manure. Each spring dress the rows with a general fertiliser at the rate of 2 oz per sq. yard. Follow this routine of organic manuring in the Autumn and fertiliser application in the spring.

*Colin Williams*

## Eat the Seasons – September

**Vegetables** - Artichoke, Aubergine, Beetroot, Broccoli, Butternut Squash, Carrots, Celeriac, Celery, Chillies, Courgettes, Cucumber, Fennel, French Beans, Garlic, Horseradish, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce & Salad Leaves, Mangetout, Marrow, Onions, Pak Choi, Peppers, Potatoes (Maincrop), Pumpkin, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Shallots, Spring Onions, Sweetcorn, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Wild Mushrooms

**Fruit** - Apples, Bilberries, Blackberries, Damsons, Elderberries, Figs, Grapes, Medlar, Melons, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Raspberries, Redcurrant

**Herbs** - Chestnuts, Chives, Cob Nuts, Coriander, Oregano, Mint, Parsley (Curly), Parsley (Flat-Leafed), Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Thyme

**Meat** - Beef, Duck, Grouse, Guinea Fowl, Hare, Lamb, Mallard, Pheasant, Rabbit, Turkey, Venison, Wood Pigeon

**Fish** - Clams, Cod, Coley, Crab, Dab, Dover Sole, Grey Mullet, Haddock, Halibut, Hake, Herring, Lemon Sole, Mackerel, Monkfish, Mussels, Oysters, Pilchard, Plaice, Pollack, Prawns, Red Mullet, Sea Bass (Wild), Sea Bream, Shrimp, Squid, Turbot, Whelks, Winkles

Visit - [www.eattheseasons.co.uk](http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk)

## Some observations out of the coronavirus crisis...

When you wear a tight mask around your face, a hat, a face shield, a gown, two pairs of gloves, and something to protect your shoes, it is a totally different (nursing) thing; and, as nurses, you have to stay in that side room or unit for 12-and-a-half hours. It is really draining physically. You...can't even go to the loo because your patients are terribly sick. They are on maximum (life support), so you can't take your eyes off that monitor. – *ITU nurse on the reality of nursing in PPE*

Churches need to proclaim a better vision for the economy after the pandemic. Our economy is underpinned by the flawed assumption that people find their fulfilment through individual consumption: the more you have, the better your life will be. – *Simon Perfect, researcher for Theos*

Those who have found God in digital church may want to keep God there rather than discover transforming participation in the Body of Christ.... We need to find creative new ways of combining physical gathering with the virtual. - *Canon Mark Collinson, Principal of the School of Mission Winchester Diocese.*

No donations are coming in. Everybody is at home, and the last thing they expect is charities ... sending emails asking for money. But at the same time, we have projects to run, staff to pay...– *director of a humanitarian charity*

History books will inevitably tell the story of a virus that swept the world in 2020. But it is up to us what that story will look like. Either... the story of a virus that ... showed up the weakness, selfishness and frailty of people... or how people responded with their best, how the virus was a medical but not a social tragedy. – *Canon Will Hughes, Vicar of Petersfield, Portsmouth Diocese.*

The Covid-19 pandemic is traumatic not only because it threatens our existence... but it also threatens the cultural norms, frameworks and habits that we take for granted ...leaving us socially isolated and ... disorientated. It is no longer easy for us to say '...but life goes on'. - *Canon Joanna Collicutt, clinical psychologist, Ripon College Cuddesdon.*

I may make all things well, and I can make all things well, and I shall make all things well; and thou shalt see thyself that all manner of things shall be well. - *Mother Julian of Norwich during the Black Death which had killed one third of the population of Norwich.*

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## What's in your hand?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, *'What is in your hand?'* (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, *'I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.'* A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given *you* that will help and encourage others?

---

### Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here

S		P		S		S		W		B		E
K	I	R	I	A	T	H	J	E	A	R	I	M
E		I		M		A		P		E		B
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C		S		Z		O				S		R
H	A	T	E	D		M	I	L	E	T	U	S
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# ERIC EYRE

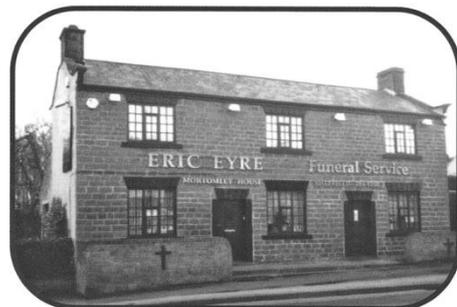
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# It is time to eat Sweetcorn

For me, a just-microwaved corn on the cob, covered in melted butter is simply one of the greatest eating experiences available. Tinned or frozen sweetcorn can be tasty enough, but it doesn't compare to corn eaten straight from the cob, slathered with butter, when the crisp and succulent kernels explode with flavour in the mouth. If you fancy being a bit more creative, I've listed a number of alternatives to the basic corn on the cob treatment. But really, why bother?



Sweetcorn is a form of maize that has been cultivated since the nineteenth century. Maize (known as corn in the USA and elsewhere) has been an important foodstuff for thousands of years. It was eaten by Mexican and central American cultures as early as 3,400 B.C. and fuelled the Aztec Empire as well as the Mayan and the Inca civilizations.

It is widely thought that the Spanish brought maize back to Europe in the fifteenth century from where it then spread to east Asia and Africa. However, this view does not go unchallenged and there is some evidence in support of an alternate theory (with far-reaching consequences for historians) that maize spread west from the Americas to Asia before it spread eastwards from Europe. Sweetcorn gathered popularity in the UK after World War II and is now grown extensively across southern England. Sweetcorn, a grass, is a form of the cereal crop maize ([Zea mays](#)), harvested at a young age while the kernels are tender and sweet. A corn ear is an inflorescence (cluster of flowers around a stem) and the kernels are the fruit of the plant, more specifically a grain.

When buying look for cobs with the husk intact. The husk should be green and fresh and conceal fine, silky threads. Kernels should be tightly packed, plump, and smaller at the tips than in the middle (indicating young cobs). After picking, the sugars in sweetcorn began turning to starch at a pace. As the point of sweetcorn is that it's sweet, keep sweetcorn cool and eat as soon as possible after buying, the same day as purchase where possible. If keeping for more than a day, parboil the corn for a minute (this will help slow down the conversion of sugars) before refrigerating.

## Cooking Sweetcorn

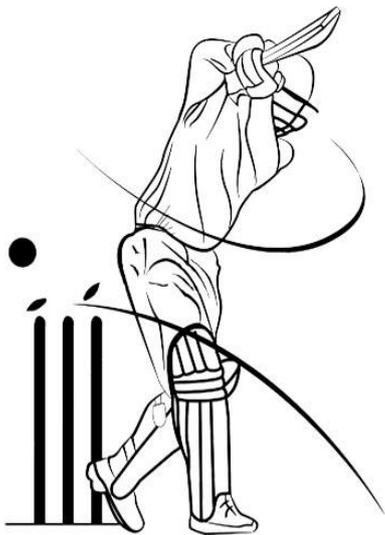
**Microwave** - For just 1 or 2 ears of corn, microwave on high for 3 minutes. For 3 or 4 ears, microwave for 4 - 5 minutes. If you like softer corn or if your ears are particularly large, microwave for an additional minute. If your sweetcorn is pre-prepared follow the instructions on the packaging (coat with melted butter and wrap in greaseproof paper 1 to 2 minutes per ear)

**Boiling** - strip the husk and silk and trim the stems. Cook in unsalted boiling water (salt will toughen the kernels) until the sweetcorn yields to a fork tip (anything from 3 to 10 minutes or more, depending on the condition of the corn). Season after cooking.

**Barbecue** - soak the whole corn, with husks, in water for 10 minutes before cooking in the embers or over a moderate heat for 15 minutes or more, until toasted. Alternatively, soak the corn and remove the husk before brushing with a little butter and grilling.

To remove kernels from a corn cob, trim one end to produce a flat surface, stand the corn vertically on the flat end and cut down the length of the cob at the base of the kernels. Turn the cob and repeat until all kernels have been stripped. This is much easier to do after cooking.

# Whitley Hall Cricket Club



So with mini-leagues for both the 1st and 2nd teams set up the “season” began on 18th July. The first XI has had some good matches with the only defeat at Baxter Field on 1st August with an exciting match against Sheffield Collegiate and it went down to the line. Whitley scored 181 all out and with one ball left, Collegiate were also on 181 and scored a single run to edge the match.

The following week on 8th August, they triumphed away at Hallam with a fairly comfortable win. The following week they had a fairly tight win away at Cawthorne and on 22nd August they entertained Barnsley and came out winners in a rain affected match reduced to 18 overs.

At the time of writing, Whitley are second in the mini-league table with an additional game against Wakefield, delayed from 25th July, still to be played. The 2nd XI has had a tougher time with just 2 wins out of 5 and looking unlikely to make the final knock-out game.

All visitors are warmly welcomed and are invited to use the facilities at the pavilion but must follow the health and safety and distancing rules which will be clearly posted and masks may be required indoors.

Matches start at 12 noon

## **League Games at Cinder Hill Lane for the remainder of the season.**

Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	V	Wakefield 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	V	Cawthorne 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Saturday 2 <sup>th</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	V	Sheffield Hallam 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September			Finals Day

**Contact:** Joe Webster, Secretary: 0796 901 4592

**Can We Go Home** - Edward took his girlfriend to a test match. Not only did she not understand the game, she was completely bored. After tea, a batsman hit a powerful six over the long on boundary. "Thank heavens! They got rid of the ball!" she shouted in delight. "Now we can all go home!"

# Crossword Puzzle

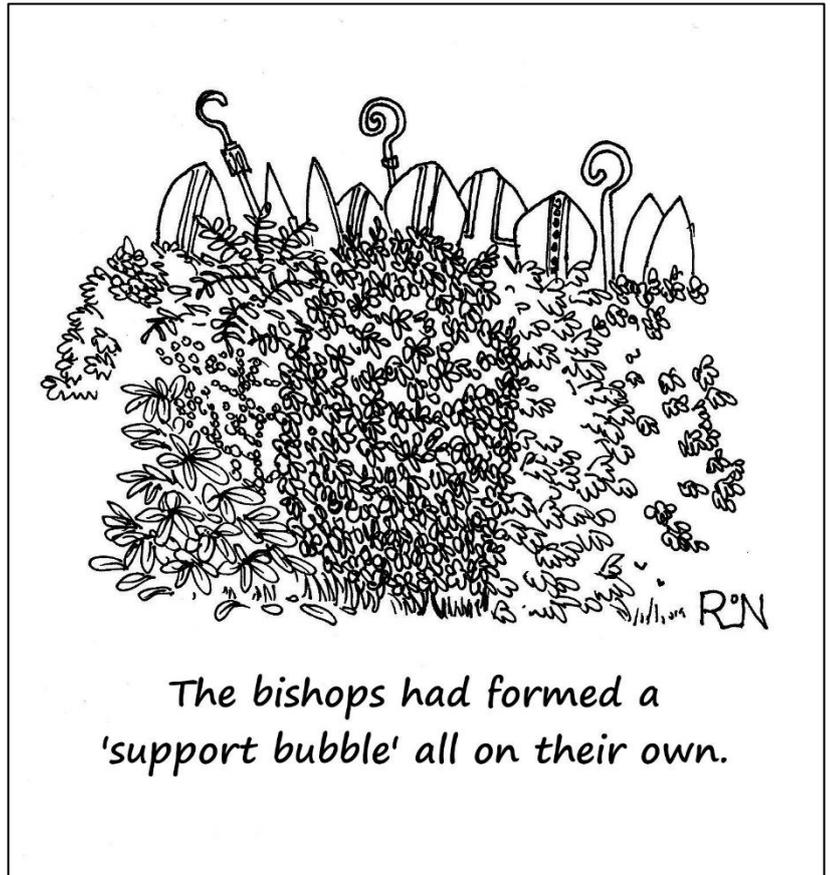
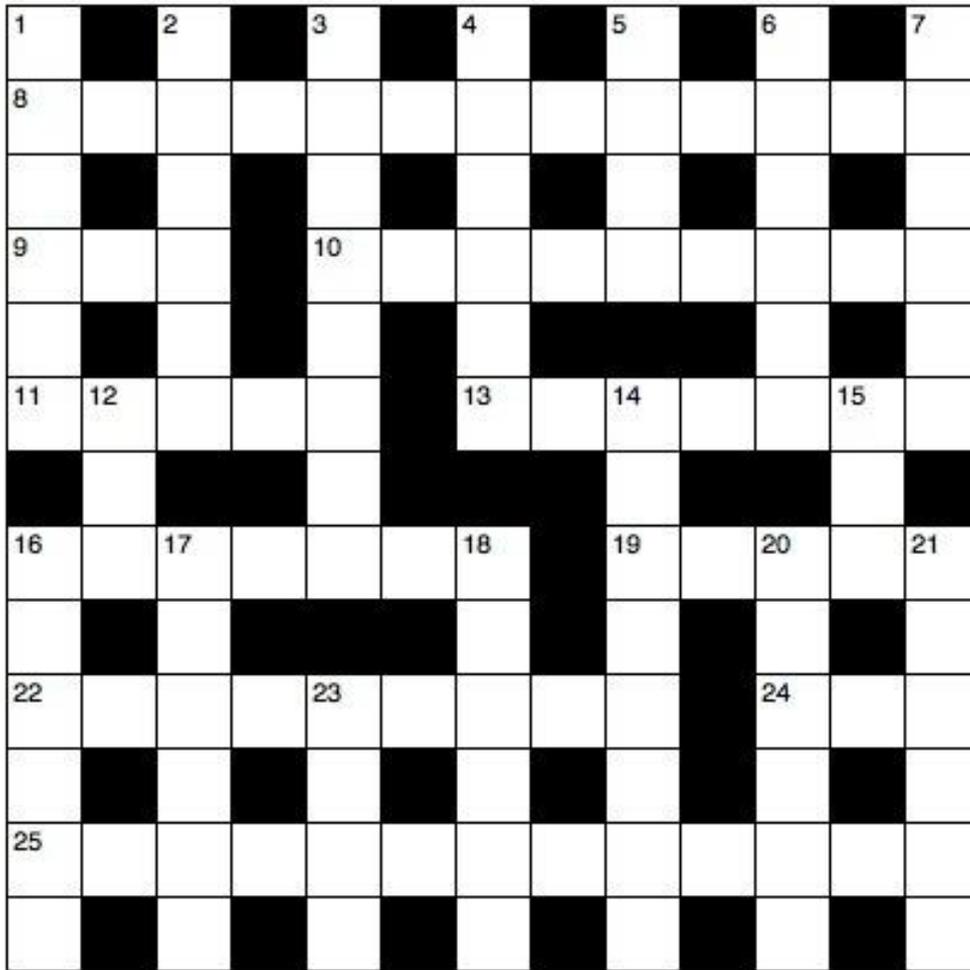
## Clues Across

- 8** Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9** One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10** Uncomfortable (3,2,4) **11** ‘Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ’ (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13** Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16** ‘Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger’ (John 8:6) (7)
- 19** Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22** Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24** and 2 Down ‘Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ’ (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25** There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

## Clues Down

- 1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2** See 24 Across
- 3** Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4** Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5** The Bible’s shortest verse: ‘Jesus — ’ (John 11:35) (4)
- 6** ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?’ (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7** Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12** ‘Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem’ (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14** Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15** United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16** One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17** Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18** — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20** ‘Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight’ (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21** ‘Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23** What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Solution is on Page 21



# Prayers and Poems Page

*Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: "Genesis 22 is quite a disturbing chapter, describing how Abraham was called upon to sacrifice his long awaited and much-loved son, Isaac. The account tells of Isaac's confusion on his way up the mountain with his father, but his response to subsequent events is not disclosed to us..."*

## **Why has my father brought me here?**

Why has my father brought me here?  
Upon this mountain top so high?  
And why do I behold a tear,  
Within my father's loving eye?

Where is the lamb for sacrifice  
To lay upon this altar wood?  
And where the funds to pay the price?  
I can't see how this will do good.

Why am I so tightly bound?  
My eyes are wrapped – I cannot see!  
I'm tied to wood, my heart does pound!  
Oh *why* has he forsaken me?

Can it be my father's plan  
As he takes up that awful knife  
That I should be the special lamb?  
The sacrifice be my own life?

I hear a voice call "Abraham!  
"Don't harm the lad! I hear your prayer!  
"The sacrifice should be that ram  
"Caught in a thicket, over there!"

"And you have not withheld your son,  
"Despite your love, your father's pride!  
"You have this day My blessing won,  
"And, like today, I will provide."

Why has our Father brought us here?  
Upon our troubles harshly tied?  
So far from all that we hold dear?  
Just trust in Him, He will provide!

*By Nigel Beeton*

*Editor: September sees St Michael and All Angels Day. Here are a few lines from an ancient Celtic poem about the archangel...*

## **Saint Michael**

Saint Michael, angel of the sea,  
Lord of the horses he,  
Saint Michael, of the angels king,  
Of war, of shepherding;  
On steed he flies across the skies;  
The first-fruits of the harvest corn,  
The first-fruits of the flock-lambs born,  
Are his, he meets the soul forlorn.

The saints and angels watch o'erhead,  
Their wings and prayers o'erspread:  
The righteous ones in heaven wait,  
St Peter at the gate;  
In might arrayed they shield and aid;  
Be with us e'er, archangel powers,  
Be with us, angels, life's long hours.

## **Praise to the Holiest in the height**

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came...

And in the garden secretly,  
And on the cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren, and inspire  
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways....

*By John Henry Newman*

## The Churchyard – Issue 19

Each stone in the Churchyard must have a story full of happiness, sorrow and interest but alas in the majority -of cases all we know are the bare facts of the names and dates engraved thereon. I have exhausted the information that I have found from various sources in the articles written before and regret that the series must come to an end. It is hoped that the readers have had .as much pleasure from the articles as I have had in searching and writing.

The five years that I have spent have been full of interest and an education. The measuring and drawing of the plan was, an exercise which I enjoyed, but at that time the stones were just slabs of rock. The interest came with the writing of the inscriptions followed by historical reference to the names, found, changing them from mere names to real people. Individual people joined into a community producing a picture of Ecclesfield in the past. It is a picture of a people united in their devotion to the Church which was the focal point of their lives and the meeting place of the two distinct classes. The upper class became the leaders of the professional, commercial and industrial life of not only Eccles-field but for many miles around. The lower classes were industrious and, due to working in their own small workshops at their cottages, independent. Again, each in their own ways, they were alike in their love of entertainment be it sport, music, drinking or bear baiting.

Ecclesfield is indeed fortunate to inherit a Church and Churchyard so beautiful and full of historic interest. Looking round other old churchyards with their broken and eroded stones and wide open spaces where stones have been cast aside makes one appreciate ours all the more. My plea must be to keep it neat and as it is. Let us remember that it is the resting place of all those who have gone before and if a standing stone becomes unstable let it be either made safe or laid on the spot where it was intended. In most of the area no new burials are permitted so there is no reason for their removal, if indeed there is a right. Too many priceless things have been lost for ever by so called improvements which have been regretted within a short spell of time. It is sincerely hoped that not one yard of ground will be lost by road widening or building development. Let God's Acre at Ecclesfield remain as it is. It has served us well for so many hundreds of years and it is our duty as temporary custodians to maintain it for the future generations.

F. S. Hague.

## Contact Numbers for Local Groups ☎

### Ecclesfield Rainbows

Gatty Hall  
Tuesday 5.00 pm to 6.15 pm  
Leader - Debbie  
Tel: 07860 471793

### Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall  
Monday 5.30 pm to 6.45 pm  
Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson  
Tel: 0114 257 8609

### Ecclesfield Brownies

Gatty Hall  
Tuesday 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm  
Leader - Mrs A. Kendall  
Tel: 0114 246 8866

### Ecclesfield Guides

Gatty Hall  
Thursday 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm  
Leader - Mrs C Topham  
Tel: 0114 246 1289

### Ecclesfield Priory Players

EPPIC Theatre  
Monday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm  
Wednesday 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm  
Secretary –Carol Travis  
Theatre Tel No. 0114 240 2624

### Ecclesfield Community Garden

Ecclesfield Park - Located between  
Ladycroft bridge/stream and Bowling  
greens. Open Wednesday + Saturday  
10 am to 12 noon  
Tel: Robert 0114 2461095

### Friends of Ecclesfield Library

Run by the community for the community.  
Volunteer helpers always needed.  
Tel: 0114 246 3651  
email: [ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com](mailto:ecclesfieldlib@gmail.com)

### Ecclesfield Cubs

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)  
Wednesday 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pack 6.30 pm to 8.0 pm  
Leader - Mrs A Hancock  
Tel: 0114 245 2780

### Ecclesfield Beavers

Scout Hut (off Yew lane)  
Monday 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm  
Leader - Mrs J Steel  
0114 246 0218  
Thursday - 5.45 - 7.00 pm  
Shane Porteous  
[shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk](mailto:shane@ecclesfieldscouts.org.uk)

### Ecclesfield Scouts

Scout Hut (off Yew Lane)  
Thursday 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm  
Leader - Bryony Hemming  
Tel. 07983 719155

### The Grenoside Singers

Practice Monday in St Mark's  
Church Hall at 7:30 pm  
Secretary: Judith Gill Tel: 07824 112584  
[www.grenosidesingers.co.uk](http://www.grenosidesingers.co.uk)

### Whitley Hall Cricket Club

Matches every Saturday and some  
Sundays and weekdays.  
Please make contact if you wish to play or  
learn.  
Secretary: Joe Webster, 0796 901 4592  
[jwebster@horburygroup.com](mailto:jwebster@horburygroup.com)

### Chapeltown and District PROBUS Club

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the month  
in Grenoside Community Centre  
All retired and semi-retired gentlemen welcome  
Secretary Trevor Winslow 07966 317258  
We are now on Zoom see  
[www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk](http://www.chapeltown-probus.org.uk)

If you would like your local group advertised, please contact:  
Mrs P Blackburn ☎ 0114 246 8453





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